

Closing the Loop: Exploring Integrated Waste Management and Resource Conservation

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE SIX

2000 Edition



California Integrated Waste Management Board



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Gray Davis
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June 6, 2001

Dear Educators:

Thank you for working with our children, our most valuable resource, and thank you for helping to educate our children about the environment. As educators you are fully aware that environmental literacy must begin in our schools as an integral part of each student's education. The preservation of our natural surroundings and protection of our resources must be an important component of our curriculum. The lessons learned in childhood are those that make a difference for a lifetime.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) is proud to play a role in helping each of you nurture the environmental ethic in California's young people through its award winning "Closing The Loop" curriculum. As a former teacher I understand the importance of maximizing your time and resources and feel that our revised curriculum will encourage integrated learning as well as correlate to the State's content standards. These lessons promote the concept of reduce, reuse, recycle, and buy recycled as well as encourage partnerships among educators, students, schools, and government.

The revised curriculum is a product of much partnership—teachers field-tested the lessons, the background sections were revised by technical experts, and the California Department of Education's Office of Environmental Education commented on the final draft. I know you will enjoy the hands-on activity centered approach to learning that helps to instill lifelong behavioral changes.

I love the Native American Proverb, "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." The role you play is critical in helping our children learn to protect our environment. I feel confident that the revised "Closing The Loop" curriculum will meet your environmental education needs, and on behalf of the CIWMB, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Moulton-Patterson
Board Chair

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov.